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2001 APR 27 P 4: 35

DA 01-1042

Released: April 23, 2001

WTB SEEKS COMMENT ON WIRELESS E911 PHASE II WAIVER REQUEST FILED BY CAROLINA PCS I, LP

CC DOCKET NO. 94-102

Comments Due: May 23, 2001

Reply Comments Due: June 7, 2001

Under the Federal Communications Commission's (Commission's) rules, wireless carriers are required to begin deploying the capability to identify the precise location of wireless 911 calls beginning on October 1, 2001, provided certain conditions are met.¹ This capability is called Phase II Automatic Location Identification (ALI). The Phase II rules establish deployment schedules and set accuracy and reliability requirements for location technologies that might used, specifically for handset-based and network-based ALI technologies.²

In a filing made on February 6, 2001, Carolina PCS I, LP (Carolina) requests a waiver of the Phase II rules to permit it to deploy a hybrid ALI approach for its Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM) network that would include both network and handset upgrades. Carolina proposes implementing a network software solution (NSS) and a handset-based technology called Enhanced Observed Time Difference of Arrival (E-OTD).

To accomplish the Phase II implementation, Carolina indicates that it intends to deploy NSS/E-OTD, the same technology to be used by VoiceStream Wireless Corporation (VoiceStream) under a waiver granted by the Commission last year.³ Carolina claims that it faces circumstances similar to VoiceStream and that, while E-OTD ultimately will meet and even exceed the Commission's accuracy requirements, Carolina requires a temporary waiver of the Commission's accuracy rules for location technologies,

¹ 47 C.F.R. §20.18.

² 47 C.F.R. §20.18(f)-(h).

³ *Revision of the Commission's Rules To Ensure Compatibility with Enhanced 911 Emergency Calling Systems*, CC Docket No. 94-102, Fourth Memorandum Opinion and Order, 15 FCC Rcd 17,442 (2000), *recon. pending (E911 Fourth Memorandum Opinion & Order)*.

specifically Sections 20.18(e) and (h) of the Commission's rules. According to Carolina, its NSS/E-OTD approach is the only ALI solution available in the near term for GSM systems for compliance with Phase II.

Carolina represents that it is willing to comply with the same conditions placed on VoiceStream pursuant to its waiver request granted by the Commission in the *E911 Fourth Memorandum Opinion & Order*. Specifically, Carolina proposes to deploy NSS capability by the fourth quarter of 2001 and have NSS deployment throughout its network by or before December 31, 2001, regardless of whether it has received any PSAP requests. The NSS technology will provide a radial location with an accuracy of 1000 meters for 67 percent of the calls.

In combination with NSS, Carolina proposes to implement E-OTD, and will ensure that at least 50 percent of all new handsets are E-OTD capable by October 2001, and that 100 percent of all new handsets are E-OTD capable by March 31, 2002. Carolina proposes that by October 1, 2001, all new E-OTD capable handsets will provide ALI with an accuracy of 100 meters 67 percent of the time and 300 meters 95 percent of the time. Carolina proposes to ensure that all new E-OTD capable handsets activated on or after October 1, 2003 comply with an accuracy requirement of 50 meters for 67 percent of calls and 150 meters for 95 percent of calls. Carolina states that, subject to the proposals and limitations listed above, within 6 months after a PSAP request or October 1, 2001, whichever is later, Carolina will implement any network or infrastructure upgrades necessary to provide Phase II handset-based service and begin providing Phase II location information.

Carolina also proposes that it will comply with the requirement to achieve 95 percent penetration of location-capable handsets among its subscribers no later than December 31, 2005. Carolina represents that it will report to the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau semiannually through October 1, 2003 on its experience with NSS and E-OTD, including actual deployment and the results of all tests and trials.

We seek comment on this waiver request. Parties interested in filing comments may do so on or before **May 23, 2001** and reply comments on or before **June 7, 2001**.

This is a "permit but disclose" proceeding pursuant to § 1.1206 of the Commission's Rules.⁴ Presentations to or from Commission decision-making personnel are permissible provided that *ex parte* presentations are disclosed pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 1.1206(b).

Comments may be filed using the Commission's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) or by filing paper copies. Comments filed through the ECFS can be sent as an electronic file via the Internet to <http://www.fcc.gov/e-file/ecfs.html>. In completing the transmittal screen, commenters should include their full name, Postal Service mailing address, and the docket number of this proceeding. Parties that choose to file by paper must file an original and four copies of each filing with the Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, 445 12th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20554, and a diskette copy with the Commission's copy contractor International Transcription Service, Inc. (ITS), Room CY-B400, Federal Communications

⁴ 47 C.F.R. § 1.1206.

Commission, 445 12th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20554. The filing should include the docket number of this proceeding: CC Docket No. 94-102. Filings and comments are also available for inspection and copying during regular business hours in the Reference Information Center, Federal Communications Commission, Court Yard Level, Room CY-A257, 445 12th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. or may be purchased from ITS.

For further information concerning this proceeding, contact Jennifer Tomchin, Policy Division, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, at (202) 418-1310.

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